

Claims

1. An egress doorframe for illuminating a point of egress, comprising at least three frame members including two side panels and an overhead lintel, said side panels separated by said overhead lintel, each of said frame members formed of a hollow construction, having a formed interior portion for receiving a door, an open exterior portion for attaching to a support structure, outwardly facing first and second side faces, and defining a maximum outer periphery, and an outwardly open electroluminescent strip secured to said first side face within said maximum outer periphery, such that when said electroluminescent strip is activated by a power source, said egress doorframe is lighted about said two side panels and said overhead lintel.
2. The egress doorframe of claim 1 further comprising a channel located on said first side face.
3. The egress doorframe of claim 2 including a U-shaped channel integrally formed with said first side face.
4. The egress doorframe of claim 2 further comprising a U-shaped channel secured to said first side face.
5. The egress doorframe of claim 1 wherein said electroluminescent strip is placed within a raceway tube having at least a transparent or translucent front surface, said raceway tube secured to said first side face.
6. The egress doorframe of claim 5 wherein said raceway tube comprises a substantially rectangular shape having a front portion, a back portion, and two side portions, said raceway tube being substantially uniform in thickness on said front and back portions, having a thickness substantially smaller than said uniform thickness on

one of said side portions forming a hinge, and having an overlapping, interlocking clamp on the other of said side portions.

7. The egress doorframe of claim 2 wherein said electroluminescent strip is placed within a raceway tube having at least a transparent or translucent front surface, said raceway tube fitted within and secured to said channel.

8. The egress doorframe of claim 7 wherein said raceway tube comprises a substantially rectangular shape having a front portion, a back portion, and two side portions, said raceway tube being substantially uniform in thickness on said front and back portions, having a thickness substantially smaller than said uniform thickness on one of said side portions forming a hinge, and having an overlapping, interlocking clamp on the other of said side portions, or overlapping, interlocking clamps on both side portions of a two part raceway tube.

9. The egress doorframe of claim 1 further including a junction box securable to said doorframe, said junction box providing for electrical connection to said power source for said electroluminescent strips within said frame members.

10. The egress doorframe of claim 9 including an aperture within said doorframe where said junction box attaches to allow electrical connection from a connector in said junction box cover through said doorframe to said electroluminescent strips.

11. The egress doorframe of claim 1 further comprising a door attached to said doorframe by a hinged connector, said door having a recess for flush mounting an EXIT sign.

12. The egress doorframe of claim 11 further comprising:  
said hinged connector having at least one aperture for electrical wiring to and from  
said EXIT sign through said door and said recess; and

a corresponding aperture in said doorframe to receive said wiring from said hinged connector.

13. A bypass doorframe for rerouting wiring, said bypass doorframe comprising at least three frame members including two side panels and an overhead lintel, each formed of a hollow construction and having a formed portion for receiving a door, a formed portion for attaching to a support structure, outwardly facing first and second side faces, and side channel raceways inside said frame members for receiving electrical wiring, said side channel raceways carrying said electrical wiring in from an aperture through one of said side panels through said overhead lintel and out an aperture of the other of said side panels.

14. The bypass doorframe of claim 13 further including at least one elongated, flat metal segment attached to said frame members for enclosing said side channel raceways within said hollow construction of said bypass doorframe.

15. A lighting system for illuminating a point of egress comprising:  
an egress doorframe including egress side frame members and an egress overhead lintel, each having an outwardly facing U-shaped channel for mounting electroluminescent strips about the periphery of said egress doorframe such that when said electroluminescent strip in said U-shaped channel is activated by a power source, said egress doorframe is lighted peripherally about said frame members and said egress overhead lintel;  
a plurality of electroluminescent strips within a first set of transparent or translucent raceway tube segments attachable to structures leading to said egress doorframe; and  
a bypass doorframe including bypass side frame members and a bypass overhead lintel, each having metal channel raceways inside for receiving electrical wiring, said channel raceways carrying said electrical wiring in from an aperture through one of said bypass frame members through said bypass overhead lintel and out an aperture of another of said bypass frame members;

such that when said power source is applied, said electroluminescent strips illuminate a path on said structures leading to said egress doorframe, said egress doorframe periphery is illuminated, and doorways not providing egress are configured with said bypass doorframes to maintain electrical continuity for said electroluminescent strips on each side of said doorways.

16. The lighting system of claim 15 further including a second set of transparent or translucent raceway tube segments for insertion within said outwardly facing U-shaped channel, said second set of raceway tube segments having said electroluminescent strips secured therein.